

US not ready to submit
Panama, Colombia ... pg 2



Enjoy Aruba's
57th carnaval

IDEFRE issues reminder
for CIOS Test pg 3

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THE MORNING NEWS

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Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.

A dead Spermwhale found drifting in Aruba waters



AMMF Spermwhale in distress in St Maarten SXMSL10012011

Another dead Spermwhale was found drifting in Aruba waters. It was found on Jan 21 about 4 miles from the Aruban coast. This is merely 11 days after another Spermwhale in distress was sighted to St Maarten's North East beaches before it disappeared.

The Aruba Coastguard together with Aruba Marine Mammals Foundation documented and obtained some samples for Scientific research contribution.

The Spermwhale, (*Physeter macrocephalus*), also known as Moby Dick, was about 12m long and was in a state of decomposition, indicating it was at least 4 days dead. It had two bites on its back and one on the right flank, and multiple bites at the jaw on the left side. The tongue wasn't visible, a delicacy for Orcas. There were no visible indication as to the cause of death, although it had a nylon fishing line wrapped twice around its torso. Seabirds who usually feed on dead whales were absent and so were sharks.

This is the 3rd dead stranding incident of this species recorded by AMMF in Aruba. In 2003 a dead Spermwhale entangled in Fishing Trawler's ropes stranded near Baby

Beach, and in 2010 two dead Spermwhales were found entangled in a driftnet a couple of miles offshore

The Spermwhale is known to live in social groups with strong bonds. They hold the record of the deepest divers (3200m deep) and have the largest brains in the world. Their favorite food is giant squid but also eat fish (including sharks), and live in all oceans. Their lifespan is longer than 70 years. There are still about 200 000 of them left in the world. The Sperm whale is classified by the IUCN as vulnerable for extinction and is on the Appendix I of the Convention in International Trade in Endangered Species of wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).

The health of the Spermwhales is a measure of the health of our oceans. By taking dart-samples of 955 Spermwhales' blubber, Dr Roger Payne (USA) conducted a 5 year research, covering 87,000 miles, on organic and metal pollutants of the ocean. The samples were sent for analysis to marine toxicologist John Wise at the University of Southern Maine. The result, published in 2010, is considered the most comprehensive ocean pollution research ever made. It revealed a jaw-drop-

ping alarming high level of contamination of metal, a.o. mercury, chromium, cadmium, all known carcinogens. Also higher than expected concentration of aluminum was found. This could mean that the ocean as a healthy food resource for humans is in danger.

Dr. Payne, 75, is best known for his 1968 discovery and recordings of songs by humpback whales, and for finding that some whale species can communicate with each other over thousands of miles. "The consequences of the metals could be horrific for both whale and man", he said.

A very special thanks goes to the fishing boats who reported the finding, and to the Coastguard "Steunpunt," Randolph Paskel and his staff Rowalstki Paskel, Gino Werleman, Nehomar Rasmijn, Reinold Kiringdongo and, Gregory Giel for their tireless efforts and loyal valuable collaboration.

(Reinold and Gregory: what a wonderful job with extracting the tooth from the submerged jaw 4 miles out at sea!) Once again Aruba was united in efforts to contribute to Scientific research towards the conservation of Marine Mammals and our Ocean's health.

*De Palm Tours volunteers
keep Alto Vista Chapel
clean*



See story on page 3

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Egypt regime warns of crackdown as revolt spreads

CAIRO, Egypt (AFP) - Egypt's embattled regime warned of a military crackdown as massive protests demanding its overthrow spilled out across the country and deadly unrest flared in the remote south.

Hundreds of demonstrators marched on parliament from the epicentre of the uprising in Cairo's Tahrir Square the day after the largest protests since the revolt began, as other demonstrations erupted in cities across the country.

Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit warned the army, until now a respected and mostly neutral force on Cairo's streets, would intervene to protect the country if the protests against President Hosni Mubarak escalated.

"If chaos occurs, the armed forces will intervene to control the country, a step... which would lead to a very dangerous

situation," the official MENA news agency said, paraphrasing Abdul Gheit's interview with Arabic-language satellite television channel Al-Arabiya.

His remarks came after newly appointed Vice President Omar Suleiman warned of a possible "coup" in the absence of a peaceful transfer of power.

The protesters however showed no sign of backing down on their demand for Mubarak's overthrow as tens of thousands of people filled Cairo's Tahrir Square well into the third week of a revolt that could reshape the Middle East.

Around a thousand marched on parliament to de-

mand its members' resignation, vowing to remain until the legislature -- widely seen as unfairly dominated by the ruling party -- is dissolved.

The night before they had been joined by several hundred thousand supporters for the biggest rallies yet in the two-week-old drive to topple the autocratic president and replace his 30-year-old US-backed regime.

In a sign the protests were widening beyond Cairo, unrest gripped the remote oasis of Kharga, where at least five people were killed and 100 wounded when security forces opened fire on demonstrators, a security official told AFP.

Aristide to return soon to Haiti: lawyer



planned return and also would not reveal how he planned to hand over the new passport which was given to the lawyer by Haitian officials in Port-au-Prince.

"Administratively on the Haitian side, there is no obstacle to the return of president Aristide," Haitian Interior Minister Paul Antoine Bien-Aime said.

The news of Aristide's planned return is likely to fuel uncertainty in the impoverished nation, already grappling with the devastation of the January 2010 earthquake, delayed presidential elections and a cholera epidemic.

Earlier this week about 200 people demonstrated in Port-au-Prince calling for President Rene Preval to step down.

Preval had been due to leave office this week, but presidential elections have been bogged down by accusations of corruption and vote-rigging in favor of his favored successor. He has now said he plans to stay in office until the next president and government is installed.

MIAMI, Florida (AFP) - Former president Jean-Bertrand Aristide is hoping to return to Haiti in the coming days ending some seven years in exile, his lawyer told AFP.

Aristide has lived in South Africa in exile since 2004, and the path was cleared for his return after Haitian authorities this week issued him a new passport.

Aristide, a former priest who was Haiti's first democratically elected leader, fled in 2004 amid a popular revolt after two stints as president. He has said he wants to return to help his countrymen.

Kurzban said he did not know the timing of Aristide's

Taylor storms out of war crimes trial

LEIDSCHENDAM, The Netherlands (AFP) - Former Liberian president Charles Taylor boycotted his war crimes trial, forcing judges to adjourn the case after his lawyer accused the court of "injustice".

The snub by Taylor, the first African head of state to be tried by an international court, came as his three-year-old trial before the Special Court for Sierra Leone lurched towards a rancorous conclusion.

Lawyer Courtenay Griffiths accused the judges of "a personalised attack" after they refused to admit a document summarising the defence's response to the allegations that Taylor received blood diamonds for arming rebels who killed and maimed thousands in Sierra Leone.

The judges later issued an order for Griffiths to appear before them, threatening "sanctions" if he did not apologise for having stormed out on them.

Taylor, 62, has pleaded not guilty to 11 counts of war



crimes and crimes against humanity, claiming his trial was based on "lies" and an intelligence conspiracy.

But the prosecution argued that Taylor bore "the greatest responsibility for the horrific crimes committed against the people of Sierra Leone through the campaign of terror inflicted on them."

While conceding that his final brief was filed 20 days late, Griffiths said that neither he nor his client would return to court until there is a decision on his application for leave to appeal the document's exclusion.

US not ready to submit Panama, Colombia trade pacts

WASHINGTON, (AFP) - The US administration still needs to resolve "serious issues" with Panama and Colombia before submitting free-trade pacts with those two countries to Congress for ratification, Trade Representative Ron Kirk said.

Republicans, who have controlled the House since January, have called for ratification of these two deals by July along with a trade pact with South Korea, which was renegotiated by the Obama administration in December and now has White House backing.

But some Democratic lawmakers have raised objections to the trade deals with Colombia and Panama -- two of the closest US allies in Latin America -- out of concern over

the lack of human rights and labor protections in those countries.

Democratic Representative Sander Levin said "union worker violence in Colombia remains unacceptably high, if not the highest in the world" and added "limited progress is being made in the investigation and prosecution of those responsible for union murders."

According to Human Rights Watch, Colombia is the worst country for killings of union activists, with 47 deaths in 2009 and 36 in the first nine months of 2010.

Republican Representative Dave Camp, who chairs the committee, said he hopes the two deals can be ratified by July 1.

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De Palm Tours volunteers keep Alto Vista Chapel clean



Recently a total of 24 employees from De Palm Tours volunteered to clean up the area around The Chapel of Alto Vista and Boca Pos di Noord, one of the many bays located along the island's rugged north coast. The employees were divided into two groups, with several volunteers heading to the historic Alto Vista Chapel with lawnmowers and weed whackers to mow the grass that had grown tall thanks to the heavy rainfall that the island experienced in November and December. Waist-high weeds were also trimmed to form a carpet of green surrounding the chapel.

The rest of the staff, comprised of around 18 volunteers, headed south of the chapel to Boca Pos di Noord, where they cleaned up what looked like mountains of garbage washed up on the beach from the rough surf of the last 2 months. Over 3 trucks full of garbage were filled, most of which consisted

of plastic water bottles, plastic paper, shoes, toiletries and even a vandalized car. After 3 hours of hard work the bay was returned to its pristine condition, ready to be enjoyed by visitors and locals alike who enjoy driving and hiking in the area.

For the past 6 months a volunteer team of dedicated employees at De Palm Tours has worked hard to clean up the area at the Alto Vista Chapel and the bays located a kilometer to the north and south of the chapel. As our photos from during and after the cleanup show, the De Palm Tours volunteers are proud of the work they have done to keep some of Aruba's most beautiful areas in picture perfect condition for both visitors and locals alike.

De Palm Tours Team will be heading back to the Alto Vista Chapel to trim and decorate the center piece in front of the chapel during a cleanup that is scheduled for later this month.

IDEFRE issues reminder for CIOS Test



IDEFRE is reminding all those interested in gaining admission for the CIOS (Centraal Instituut voor de opleiding tot Sportleiders) that the date for the admissions test is scheduled for Saturday, February 19, 2011.

CIOS is a Dutch program which prepares students on the MBO (Junior College) level to become an athletics instructor. In the study program a student can choose to specialize in fitness care to work in foundations, KIA or with the Police Force, commerce (manage a fitness shop), or as a sports instructor. The program has a dura-

tion of 4 years, after which the student can advance to a baccalaureate program, such as at the Academie Lichameijke Opvoeding to become a teacher of physical fitness.

Admission to the program requires an admissions test via IDEFRE. Only candidates with the MAVO, or EPB (level I) diploma or those in their senior year of either of these programs, or a candidate in the junior year of the MAVO who intends to enter the CIOS program will be permitted to take the entrance test.

All interested persons must register at the IDEFRE

office. The last day to register for the CIOS admission test is Thursday, February 17, 2011. IDEFRE informs that it will not be possible to register anyone for the entrance test on Saturday 19th, the day of the test. Everyone who will be participating in the entrance test must come in proper sport attire, that is, proper athletic clothing and shoes.

For further information regarding the CIOS test, interested persons can contact Mrs. Jacqueline Ponson-van Putten at IDEFRE at Tel. 582-4987 from Monday to Friday during office hours.

Prime Minister meets TNO & Aruban technical students

ORANJESTAD -- During his business trip to the Netherlands last week, Aruban Prime Minister, Mike Eman met with TNO (independent institute of scientific investigation) and a group of Aruban students. It was Eman's wish that the Aruban students participate in his visit to TNO so as to inform them of the collaboration detailed in a Memorandum of Understanding between TNO and the government of Aruba. The goal of the MOU is to explore together the possibility of collaboration on alternative energy and on other areas of mutual interest. One concrete and innovative project that is already in motion is the so called "SolaRoad" project. In this project, the intention is to place solar panels under the road surface to generate energy from sun rays. The energy generated from this source could be used to illuminate our roads and other energy needs, such as for homes.

Last year, Eman requested TNO to assess the possibility for a joint venture in developing a Research Center for Alternative Energy for Aruba. This request was followed up with a MUO and now TNO is preparing several interesting research projects in Aruba.

The government of Aruba desires that Aruban technical students be aware of these initiatives so that they can be part of this in one form or the other. Mr. Jan Willem Kelder, Board Member of TNO concurred that Aruban students should be involved in this project. It was with that in mind that Prime Minister Eman invited the Aruban students studying at technical universities in Holland to attend the encounter at TNO.

Most of the students studying at TU Delft, Eindhoven and Twente were in attendance, and participated actively in the discussions.

Among the students were two, Ivo Hagemans and Javier

Sint Jago, who participated in last year's Green Conference held in Aruba. They participated in that conference with their solar vehicles. During the encounter at TNO, they shared with the group some of the projects they would like to develop which would benefit both TNO and Aruba.

Eman gave a detailed description of Aruba's vision with respect to alternative energy.

He explained why Aruba is interested in collaboration with TNO and TU Delft. The intention is to establish an institution of scientific investigation on Aruba where students from across the globe could come and study under the auspices of a reputable university.

The Prime Minister is convinced that TNO and Mr. Wubbo Ockels, first Dutch astronaut who was a keynote speaker at the Aruba Green Conference, would play a prominent role in Aruba's plans in these projects.

Banco di Caribe Aruba N.V. donates to *Fundacion pa Hende Muhe den Dificultad*



Management and employees Banco di Caribe Aruba N.V. with *Fundacion pa Hende Muhe den Dificultad* representatives.

Banco di Caribe Aruba N.V. made the decision to change from its traditional Christmas Dinner at the end of the year to an Employees' Cocktail Party in January of 2011 to kick off the new year. One principal element of the event was to emphasize responsibility of all the community for the less fortunate and prompt their employees to be aware of and support those in need.

This year, they chose *Fundacion pa Hende Muhe den Dificultad* – a foundation which assists victims of domestic abuse, to be the receiver of their annual donation. During the congenial cocktail party held at Pure Beach, management of Banco di Caribe Aruba N.V. together with employees presented the foundation with a

check for the amount of Afls. 10,000.

Managing Directors Mr. Herbert Ignacio and Mr. Willem (Boy) Lacle presented the donation to Foundation President Yvonne Spellen.

A very pleasant evening was decidedly enhanced by the satisfying results of this employer/employee initiative to benefit the community.



L. to r. Mr. Willem Laclé (Managing Director Banco di Caribe), Mrs. Valerie Spellen (Administrative assistant), Mrs. Yvonne Spellen (President FHMD) and Mr. Herbert Ignacio (Managing Director Banco di Caribe)

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Sci-Tech

'Niceness' partly genetic, say scientists



PARIS (AFP) - Selflessness and civic-mindedness can be inherited, especially if you are a woman, according to a new study.

Niceness, in other words, may be in your genes.

The study, published Wednesday in *Biology Letters*, adds to a growing body of research suggesting that the drivers of human behaviour are found, more than previously suspected, in "Nature" rather than "Nurture."

Environmental influences such as parenting and schooling remain strong, the scientists agree.

But our genetic endowment -- along with the way genes are activated or expressed -- is increasingly seen as shaping who we are and what we do.

Seeking to tease apart these factors, University of Edinburgh scientists Gary Lewis and Timothy Bates looked at self-assessments of nearly 1,000 pairs of twins in the United States to see how "pro-social" they were.

Some of the twins were identical and the others were fraternal.

"Having identical and non-identical twins allows you to understand whether there is a genetic factor at play," Lewis explained by phone.

"Identical twins, which share 100 percent of their genes, are more similar than non-identical twins, who share only 50 percent. You can infer genetic influence because of that biological fact."

Previous research, notably with infants too young to have been fully socialised, already suggested humans have an inbuilt capacity for empathy.

In their twins study, Lewis and Bates broke down that impulse in adults into three "pro-social" areas: a sense of civic duty, job commitment and concern for the welfare for others.

On the last of these, for example, the twins were asked, on a scale of one to 10,

how much compulsion they felt to pay more so that everyone, including the poor, could have access to medical care.

Those who felt the greatest impulse for generosity were identical female twins.

"This suggests that genetic effects are influential with regards to pro-social behaviour," Lewis said.

If the results had been the same for both identical and non-identical groups, it would have indicated that environmental factors were dominant.

The difference was much less pronounced among men, the study found.

Lewis said that it was too early to speculate as to which genes might be involved in boosting "niceness," and other scientists urged caution on how to interpret the findings.

"Heritability pertains to the entirety of the genome, not to a single gene," said Steven Pinker, a well-known evolutionary psychologist at Harvard University.

Height, he pointed out in an email exchange, is highly heritable.

But at last count there

HP hits tablet market with TouchPad



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - US computer powerhouse Hewlett-Packard on Wednesday unveiled a TouchPad tablet computer as its champion in a booming market dominated by Apple's iPad.

HP senior vice president Jon Rubinstein, who was part of the Apple team that brought the world the iPod, unveiled the TouchPad to applause in a pavilion on the San Francisco shoreline within sight of the Golden Gate Bridge.

"TouchPad is more than just a pretty face," Rubinstein said as he caressed one on stage. "The TouchPad is all about you; how you work, play, and connect with the things you value most."

TouchPad will be the first tablet in a family of products

were dozens of genes -- and there may be hundreds or even thousands -- each affecting height by a small amount.

"For all we know the same may be true for niceness, even if it does turn out to be heritable," he said.

Cyber crooks targeting smartphones: McAfee



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Smartphones have become prime targets for hackers and spammers, computer security firm McAfee said in a report released Tuesday.

The number of pieces of malicious software, referred to as "malware," surged 46 percent last year as compared with 2009, according to a

based on a webOS software platform. Palm began building from the ground up about five years ago.

HP last year bought Palm in a \$1.2-billion deal in what analysts believe was a move to get its hands on the webOS platform that could make it a player in the fast-growing market for smartphones and tablet computers.

"No one has come close to replicating our webOS experience," said Rubinstein, who was chief executive of Palm when it was acquired by HP.

TouchPad weighs about 1.5 pounds (0.7 kilograms) and has a 9.7-inch (24.6 centimeter) display -- the same weight and screen size as the iPad.

The tablet is built with a Qualcomm processor that is "screaming fast," according to Rubinstein.

TouchPad software is crafted for easy multi-tasking and supports Adobe Flash software commonly used in online video. The tablet also features a camera for video calling.

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McAfee Threats Report for the final three months of 2010.

"Cybercriminals are keeping tabs on what's popular, and what will have the biggest impact from the smallest effort," said McAfee Labs senior vice president Vincent Weafer.

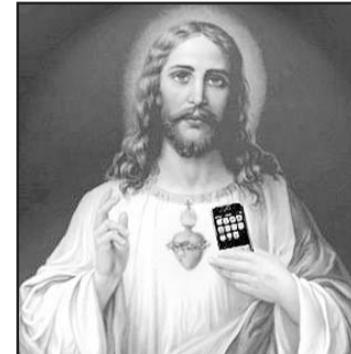
"We've seen a significant shift in various regions, showing that cybercriminals are tapped in to trends worldwide," he continued. "McAfee Labs also sees the direct correlation between device popularity and cyber-criminal activity, a trend we expect to surge in 2011."

McAfee has seen software threats to mobile devices steadily increase in recent years as the popularity of smartphones and tablet computers has climbed.

"Threats to mobile platforms are not new," McAfee said in the report. "However, as more consumers use mobile devices and tablets in their daily lives and at work, cybercriminals have taken note."

Geinimi malware slipped

Vatican bans confession by iPhone



ROME (AFP) - The Vatican put its foot down Wednesday over the idea of "confessing" by iPhone, after news that US users can now download an application for the Apple gadget that helps the faithful gain absolution.

"It is essential to understand that the rites of penance require a personal dialogue between penitents and their confessor... It cannot be replaced by a computer application," Vatican spokesman Federico Lombardi told journalists.

"I must stress to avoid all

into legitimate games and other applications for Android-based mobile phones was listed by McAfee as "one of the most important threats of the quarter."

As greater varieties of smartphones, tablets, televisions, and computers link to the Internet, hackers are likely to resort to "poisoning" Internet search results with links to websites booby-trapped with malware, according to McAfee.

"Web-based threats will continue to grow in size and sophistication," McAfee said.

Hacker tactics include luring people to bogus websites and then tricking them into downloading malware or revealing valuable information.

Adobe software products such as Flash and Acrobat were the "clear choice of malware authors and cyber-criminals" when it came to compromising computers or networks, according to McAfee.

In good news, spam in the final quarter of 2010 hit its lowest level in three years, the report indicated.

ambiguity, under no circumstance is it possible to 'confess by iPhone', he said.

"Confession: A Roman Catholic App," is the first program for the Apple devices created by a South Bend, Indiana-based company called "Little iApps" and sells for 1.99 dollars (1.45 euros) on iTunes.

The app guides the faithful on their path to confession by checking whether their behaviour conforms to the rules of the Scriptures with questions such as "have I been involved in occult practices?"

Its developer, Patrick Leinen, said the app was designed to be used in the confessional and was intended "for those who frequent the sacrament and those who wish to return."

"Our desire is to invite Catholics to engage in their faith through digital technology," Leinen said in a press release on his littleapps.com website.

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Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in children

Definition

Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a chronic condition that affects millions of children and often persists into adulthood. Problems associated with ADHD include inattention and hyperactive, impulsive behavior. Children with ADHD may struggle with low self-esteem, troubled relationships and poor performance in school.

While treatment won't cure ADHD, it can help a great deal with symptoms. Treatment typically involves psychological counseling, medications or both.

A diagnosis of ADHD can be scary, and symptoms can be a challenge for parents and children alike. However, treatment can make a big difference, and the majority of children with ADHD grow up to be vibrant, active and successful adults.

Symptoms

ADHD has been called attention-deficit disorder (ADD) and hyperactivity. But ADHD is the preferred term because it describes both primary aspects of the condition: inattention and hyperactive-im-

pulsive behavior.

While many children who have ADHD tend more toward one category than the other, most children have some combination of inattention and hyperactive-impulsive behavior. Signs and symptoms of ADHD become more apparent during activities that require focused mental effort.

In most children diagnosed with ADHD, signs and symptoms appear before the age of 7. In some children, signs of ADHD are noticeable as early as infancy.

Signs and symptoms of inattention may include:

- Often fails to pay close attention to details or makes careless mistakes in schoolwork or other activities
- Often has trouble sustaining attention during tasks or play
- Seems not to listen even when spoken to directly

- Has difficulty following through on instructions and often fails to finish schoolwork, chores or other tasks
- Often has problems organizing tasks or activities
- Avoids or dislikes tasks that require sustained mental

effort, such as schoolwork or homework

- Frequently loses needed items, such as books, pencils, toys or tools

- Can be easily distracted
- Often forgetful

Signs and symptoms of hyperactive and impulsive behavior may include:

- Fidgets or squirms frequently

- Often leaves his or her seat in the classroom or in other situations when remaining seated is expected

- Often runs or climbs excessively when it's not appropriate or, if an adolescent, might constantly feel restless

- Frequently has difficulty playing quietly

- Always seems on the go

- Talks excessively

- Blurs out the answers before questions have been completely asked

- Frequently has difficulty waiting for his or her turn

- Often interrupts or intrudes on others' conversations or games

ADHD behaviors can be different in boys and girls.

- Boys are more likely to be hyperactive, whereas girls

tend to be inattentive.

- Girls who have trouble paying attention often daydream, but inattentive boys are more likely to play or fiddle aimlessly.

- Boys tend to be less compliant with teachers and other adults, so their behavior is often more conspicuous.

You may suspect your child's behavior is caused by ADHD if you notice consistently inattentive or hyperactive, impulsive behavior that:

- Lasts more than six months

- Occurs in more than just one setting (typically at home and at school)

- Regularly disrupts school, play and other daily activities

- Causes problems in relationships with adults and other children

Normal behavior vs. ADHD

Most healthy children are inattentive, hyperactive or impulsive at one time or another. For instance, parents may worry that a 3-year-old who can't listen to a story from beginning to end may have ADHD. But preschoolers nor-

mally have a short attention span and aren't able to stick with one activity for long. Even in older children and adolescents, attention span often depends on the level of interest. Most teenagers can listen to music or talk to their friends for hours but may be a lot less focused about homework.

The same is true of hyperactivity. Young children are naturally energetic — they often wear their parents out long before they're tired. And they may become even more active when they're tired, hungry, anxious or in a new environment. In addition, some children just naturally have a higher activity level than do others. Children should never be classified as having ADHD just because they're different from their friends or siblings.

Children who have problems in school but get along well at home or with friends are not considered to have ADHD. The same is true of children who are hyperactive or inattentive only at home but whose schoolwork and friendships aren't affected by their behavior.

ARUBA CARNIVAL

Carnival royalty honored by SETAR N.V.



SETAR N.V., Aruba's national telecommunications company, is a principal sponsor of Aruba's Carnaval and encourages all to participate. Jean-Marie Ras Croes of SETAR's marketing department recently presented gifts to all the youthful winners of the annual Roadmarch, Calypso and Tumba musical competitions for island children at company headquarters in Seroe Blanco. Winning the titles of Youth Calypso & Roadmarch Queen was Chantal Quandt, and Youth Tumba Queen was Eunice Albertsz; Child Calypso King was Giomir Leocadia and Child Roadmarch King Kiziah Trimon. Congratulations to all of Aruba's talented young performers!

Royal Carnival Group proudly presents its Victory Team

Beautiful costumes at affordable prices



Royal Carnival Group & NBO proudly presents to the public their Carnival group;

Victory Team. Carnival lovers who still have not decided to participate in the

Aruba's 57th Carnaval or who are conscious of their budget can still register to participate. The costumes are at special prices and entertainment is by Dushi Band.

This special offer is only valid for the two Lighting Parades, which people like the most for the nightly cozy ambiance.

Interested person can register at the Botica Oduber, in the office situated in second floor. There are signs posted outside indicating where the office is.

Inscription is from Monday to Friday from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.; the price is Afls. 300 for both lighting Parades and include the costume and bar for both nights

2011 Carnaval Princes and Panchos receive gifts from SETAR N.V.



Recently, Aruba's telecommunications company, SETAR N.V. presented the gifts to Carnaval 2011 Princes and Panchos in an informal gathering at SETAR headquarters in Seroe Blanco.

Prince and Pancho are the selected consorts of Aruba's carnival queens. "Pancho" is the jester, and those who reign during the season are selected for their humorous presentations and lively carnival spirit. Two comedians who work as a team are selected in three categories: child, youth and adult.

They Princes and Panchos

for Carnaval 57 are, Child Prince Ritmo - Ferdinand Bontekoe and Jester Alegria - Jadon Maduro, representing Companashi; Youth: Prince Shon Bati - Jesmat Pantoba and Jester Compa Buli - Silvion Pardo, representing Royal Carnaval Group; and Adult: Prinse Kwenta - Raymbert Bikker and Hester Ohm - Donovan Henriquez, representing X-Clusive VIP. Congratulations to all! Photo shows the Princes and Panchos with their respective gifts.



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SUN. FEB. 13

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FRI. FEBR 18

CARNAVAL HAPPY HOUR - PLACE: PENDING

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7:30 P.M.

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Autopress website very impressed with new arrival at Ultimate Automobiles



2009-bmw-x3-edition

In January, 2011, Autopress website, which evaluates and informs regarding all industrial auto products, expressed its surprise and delight when test driving the BMW X5 2011 SUV. According to the website, the BMW X5 stands out among its competitors in power of execution, maneuverability, and braking.

Eddy Stenebone, Manager of Ultimate Automobiles Aruba explained, "We took notice of the excellent comments on the BMW SUV and

are now very happy to offer this model to the Aruban community. There are several evaluating articles published on the BMW X5 2011, positioning it as one of the best cars on the market. Automobile magazines all agree that the BMW X5 offers the best quality on the road. Although the price tag is higher than the average car, it stands out as a SUV that is easy to maneuver."

Other publications, such as AutoWeek, Motor Trend,

Consumer Guide and Left Lane News all agree on the excellence of the X5, with its sturdy exterior, yet soft ride. Autoweek states "The X5 is a car that feels good on the road; it is strong, takes smooth bends and has an exceptional braking system. We tested it repeatedly in the heavy traffic of Miami and can say- it works sublimely."

Far bigger news is the installation of BMW's twin-scroll, single-turbo 3.0-liter inline-six in the new



bmw-x5-2011

xDrive35i (which replaces last year's entry-level xDrive30i) and stellar twin-turbo 4.4-liter V-8 in the new xDrive50i (which replaces the xDrive48i). Each engine pairs with BMW's excellent new eight-speed automatic. The xDrive35i brings the base model's power and torque up to a nice, even 300 hp and 300 lb-ft (up from 260 hp and 225 lb-ft), while lopping about a second and a half off the 0-to-60-mph sprint, which BMW estimates will take about 6.4 seconds

for the 2011 model. The model is equipped with 'steptronic control' that gives the driver the choice on how to shift such as Drive, Drive Sport or Manual.

BMW's X models, which are categorized as a Sports Activity Vehicle or SAV, are causing a furor around the world. Their beauty, elegance, and distinction are powerful elements that define a dynamic automotive system which blends the best of both worlds.

COMICS



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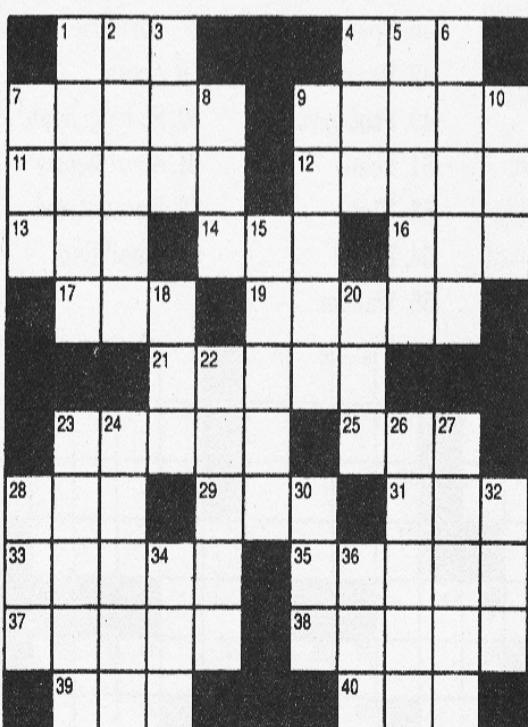
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www.themorningnewsaruba.com**ACROSS**

1. San Diego feature

4. Muscle spasm

7. Pulverize



9. Burghoff TV role

11. Go in

12. Met offering

13. Carpet color

14. Root vegetable

16. Hail, to Caesar

17. Boohoo

19. Desist's partner

21. Cook's garment

23. Duke or Earl

25. Paving stuff

28. Strong or yard

29. Inquire

31. Set down

33. Most insignificant

35. Chosen few

37. Large bird of prey

38. Joins together

39. Actress Susan

40. Join

DOWN

1. Areas

2. Surpass

3. Indefinite pronoun

4. Faucet

5. Conceptions

6. Slice a roast

7. For each

8. Do kitchen work

9. " and Juliet"

10. Actress

Charlotte

15. Land measures

18. Cave denizen

20. Picnic crasher

22. Hot or home

23. Walk

24. Twin

26. Similar

27. Assessed

28. Ginger

30. Lock opener

32. Certainly!

34. Foxy

36. Close to the ground

SOLUTION

3	6	5	2	9	4	1	8	7
8	9	2	7	8	1	6	5	3
4	2	8	3	4	5	9	7	1
6	2	3	9	1	2	8	6	5
7	4	3	9	8	7	6	3	2
5	1	9	8	7	6	4	2	4
1	8	6	4	2	5	3	9	7
2	3	8	2	4	6	1	7	5
9	5	7	1	3	8	2	4	6

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.

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BRIEFS:

Russian oil majors charged with price fixing:

MOSCOW (AFP) – Three of Russia's top five oil producers were accused Wednesday of fixing prices on the domestic market and following other unfair business practices that saw prices jump 50 percent in three months.

The Federal Anti-Monopoly Service said it had launched formal probes into the prices set for jet fuel and diesel by the state-controlled Rosneft and Gazprom Neft firms as well as the private Lukoil producer.

The agency added in a statement that it was also looking into the prices set by TNK-BP -- the Russian-British joint venture -- as well as Surgutneftegaz and Bashneft.

=====

Fed's Bernanke tackles congressional critics:

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke fended off criticism that he is ignoring the risk of rising prices, as he faced a skeptical Republican-controlled panel in Congress.

Bernanke -- who was appointed by a Republican, then-president George W. Bush -- sparred with the committee's Republican members, who warned of the risks from pumping hundreds of billions of dollars into the economy to prop up growth and help reduce unemployment

=====

Deutsche Boerse, NYSE in merger talks:

FRANKFURT (AFP) – Deutsche Boerse and NYSE Euronext said they are in "advanced discussions" to merge and create the world's largest stock exchange operator by revenues and profits.

The announcement came hot on the heels of the London and Toronto stock exchanges unveiling a landmark merger, creating one of the world's biggest trading platforms that will dominate the raw materials and energy sectors.

Shares in Deutsche Boerse were suspended before the announcement while NYSE Euronext soared by close to 20 percent.

=====

Govt strikes deal on bank pay, bonuses and lending:

LONDON (AFP) – The government said Wednesday it had struck a deal with the major banks on bonus pay and overall lending, as it seeks to curb executive excess and strengthen a fragile economic recovery.

Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne said total bonuses paid to British-based staff of the four biggest banks will be lower than last year as part of the deal, brokered after weeks of talks with the Conservative-led coalition.

=====

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Nokia 'on a burning platform,' CEO warns



Nokia's new company head Stephen Elop, seen here in 2010

HELSINKI, Finland (AFP) – The world's top mobile phone maker Nokia is "standing on a burning platform" surrounded by a "blazing fire" of competition, new company head Stephen Elop says in a dramatic call for radical change.

In an internal memo obtained by AFP, Elop's memo paints a picture of a desperate man who must make the drastic move of plunging into icy waters in order to save himself.

The company must now make a similar radical choice,

he warned.

"We too, are standing on a 'burning platform,' and we must decide how we are going to change our behaviour," Elop said.

The memo is a scathing indictment of Nokia's "non-competitive" operating system Symbian, a lack of accountability and leadership, painfully slow product delivery, a lack of internal collaboration and a general "series of misses."

The Finnish company was once the industry's top dog,

Speculation on next ECB chief jolts markets

RANKFURT, Germany (AFP) – Speculation over the next European Central Bank president jolted financial markets as media reports said German central bank president Axel Weber had bowed out of the race.

Weber has been widely mooted as a possible successor to Jean-Claude Trichet when the Frenchman steps down in October.

But reports said Weber, who has irritated some European Union (EU) figures, would give up his Bundesbank position to join Deutsche Bank, Germany's largest private bank.

The ECB succession comes



German Central Bank President Axel Weber

at a crucial time for the 17-nation eurozone as it works to regain the confidence of financial markets following debt crises in member states Greece and Ireland.

The German central bank

declined to comment, saying "rumours" that it would release a statement later this week on Weber's future were untrue.

Deutsche Bank also refused to comment.

Speculation swelled further when Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman, Steffen Seibert, said she and Weber had a telephone conversation, the subject of which was "confidential."

A source close to the German central bank told AFP that Weber had "signalled to his immediate circle that he would not necessarily seek a second mandate as head of the Bundesbank."

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

OFF	I	RAN	CLAP
WOO	S	SALE	ROLE
ERR	S	STEW	AREA
THREE	L	A	HINDER
HEEL	F	G	EASY
EASY	O	L	ONE
MRS	W	E	LONE
SIPHON	S	A	EATS
IDLE	A	T	WHEN
NEAR	M	O	INLET
KAYE	E	S	SNAP

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Taj Mahal Restaurant in Oranjestad is an authentic culinary excursion



When Bharat Shah, originally from India, but now a successful businessman in California, put on a spectacular wedding in Aruba for his daughter Lisa and her groom Kalpesh, they welcomed hundreds of friends and relatives from around the world, including the "old country."

When all the wedding guests had finally arrived in Aruba, Bharat hosted an official welcome party along the shore in Palm Beach, and he chose to have it catered by Taj Mahal restaurant, he was that impressed by their cuisine.

If you like your Indian food authentic, or are looking for a new and unique dining experience, an evening at Taj Mahal will deliver a memorable meal. A seemingly endless menu offers scores of choices for fish, chicken, lamb and vegetarian dishes that are "the real deal," discover that Indian food goes way beyond curry!

A taste-testing crew from THE MORNING NEWS



chose a selection of their singing starters and two main courses with saffron rice, served family style, which provided a fine example of the versatility of their chef. Taj Mahal's Tai Choice is a great way to start the meal and be initiated into the joys of Indian cuisine, offering a diverse selection of traditional favorites. It contains hearty portions of Pakoras, crispy vegetarian fritters, Aloo Tikki,

meal. Our group also added an appetizer of crunchy Samosas, the Indian form of a potato knish, served with either cilantro or sweet and sour sauce. A platter of their Jhinga, large, crispy-fried shrimp in a delicate batter is ample enough to serve as a main course, though featured on their appetizer menu.

As we mentioned, main courses are served family style, in beautiful little pots that sit upon a candle to keep them warm. Our group sampled the "Mutton Saagwala," also known as "Lamb Shag" which is cooked in a thick sauce of yogurt and spinach, and the "Fish Hara Masala," moist, tender chunks of fish in a rich sauce featuring cilantro as the main flavoring. This is offered in mild, medium and very spicy, we found the medium quite spicy enough for



potato cutlets, Chicken Tikka, tender chicken breast pieces seasoned just right, and shaped and seasoned ground lamb, charmingly dubbed "Sheik Kebabs." All is served on a bed of sliced onions and brought to your table on a sizzling platter, and you will want to dish those sautéed onions on to one of their tasty Indian breads called Naan, leaving behind not a single crumb. Main dishes are accompanied by a choice of rice, mixed vegetables rich with garlic, or Naan, plain, buttered, onion or garlic, and you will want to order an extra basket or two of this tasty delight, on which you can spoon your main course, as well. Poori is crispy fried naan, and most definitely worth the extra two dollars to sample with your

us; it left a tingle on the tongue.

The family style service allows everyone at the table to sample a bit of this and that, and we heartily recommend you do, to truly appreciate this authentic bit of India in Aruba. Open for lunch and dinner, Taj Mahal sports a cozy and intimate air-conditioned dining room and a small outdoor terrace for those that enjoy dining al fresco. They have an exotic dessert menu to match, but our group was too stuffed to partake; there was even enough left to box up and provide a lunch next day for the lucky first person to get to it!

Located behind the Royal Plaza Mall, across from Aruba's Numismatic Museum, Taj Mahal offers a dining experience that is truly out of the ordinary; they feature an excellent and tasty selection for vegetarians too. If you are a fan of Indian food, or have been trying with trying it, Taj Mahal is the place for a very affordable dining experience and the real deal! Call 588-4494 for reservations.

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Quality Apartments is also located only 1 mile from Aruba's greatest casinos, four large supermarkets, bank, car rentals, motorcycle rentals, excellent nightclubs and bowling club.

It has 43 comfortable studio-apartments (max. 3 persons) and 17 luxurious apartments (max. 4 persons) with a loft.

These fabulous loft apartments are more spacious, with the sleeping area upstairs on the loft. All apart-

ments are completely furnished with cable TV. The open kitchen is very spacious and equipped with stove top, refrigerator, toaster/oven and coffee maker (microwave optional). The apartments are air-conditioned, with daily maid service, private parking and a mini market.

The laundry is accessible to all guests 24 hours a day. There is a large fresh water swimming pool, with a pool deck and beach chairs, where you can relax any time of the day. At the reception, the friendly staff is always ready to attend you with a smile.

Quality Apartments is situated at the Schotlandstraat 70 in Oranjestad. For reservations or information readers may call at tel: (297)-582-0697 or (297)-583-7484, Fax: (297)-583-5203. Office hours are Monday thru Friday: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., on Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

E-mail: quality@setarnet.aw, Website: <http://arubaqualityapartments.com>

Linda's Pancakes and Pizza place, delicious meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner



Olgita, Ilhan and Iyanla enjoying a scrumptious meal



The famous Saté

Linda's Pancake and Pizza place, located at Palm Beach 6D, Noord (on the right side of Valero gas station) offers patrons the most delicious Dutch pancakes and pizza's with a Dutch twist. Open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., and only five minutes away from the high-rise resorts, Linda's is the perfect eatery for the whole family.

Seeing the popularity of this quaint small eatery, THE MORNING NEWS decided it was time to find out just how good Linda's really is, by sending out a team of taste testers.

Olgita, joined by her two kids ordered a little of everything while the kids roamed around freely, enjoying the afternoon.

The meal started out with Linda's original plain – to die for – Dutch pancakes, followed by pizza, where instead of using mozzarella Linda has created a unique twist to the traditional Italian dish by using Dutch Gouda cheese.

Adding a local favorite which could not stay off the table they also sampled the delicious saté (chicken, pork or beef on a wooden skewer) with peanut sauce (Indonesian influence on local food). For the finish the team (adults only) had one cup of Linda's delicious Espresso.

The team had this to say: "Superb! There are no words to describe just how delicious the pancakes are and the pizza is just mmm... good. The saté... out of this world!"

Besides the original plain pancake, Linda's specialty is pancakes with walnuts, Brie and honey; pancakes with banana and mango or a Dutch favorite: pancake with apple and bacon.

All their pizzas are made with Dutch Gouda cheese and different toppings making it richer in taste.

When it comes to saté, one has to say that the secret is in the sauce. If you want a specially prepared pancake or pizza, Linda is right there -- just for you -- in her kitchen.

"For those who are allergic to gluten I have a special pancake mix, gluten free," Linda stated to THE MORNING NEWS team.

Linda's Pancakes and Pizza also offers fried eggs and homemade soups.

"We also serve American coffee," Linda concluded.

With a complete menu, filled with delicious pancakes, pizzas and more, Linda's pancake and Pizza place is the perfect casual restaurant for all in the family.

For more information contact Linda's at 586-3378.

Painting of Picasso's muse sold at British auction



Picasso's *La Lecture* painting has been auctioned off at Sotheby's

LONDON, England (AFP) - A celebrated masterpiece by Pablo Picasso sold this week at Sotheby's auction house in London for 25.2 million pounds, more than double its

pre-auction valuation.

"La Lecture" is a work from the Spanish painter's "annus mirabilis," 1932, and depicts the artist's famous muse, Marie-Therese Walter. The painting was sold for the equivalent of 40.7 million dollars or 29.7 million euros.

Its expected sale price was 12 million pounds.

The sale -- which also included works by Wassily Kandinsky, Rene Magritte and Edouard Manet -- fetched a total of 68.8 million pounds, according to the auction house's website.

Seven bidders vied for the coveted Picasso work, the hammer eventually coming down after six minutes of bidding to finalise the sale to an anonymous phone buyer.

Picasso met Walter when he was 45 and she was 17 out-

side the Galeries Lafayette in Paris in 1927, while he was still married to Olga Khoklova.

The second most expensive work at the auction was a bronze sculpture by Italian artist Marino Marini, "L'Idea del Cavaliere", which sold for 4.1 million pounds.

Ten lots failed to reach their reserve price, including a painting and a sculpture by Swiss artist Alberto Giacometti, which were both expected to reach over three million pounds.

Rival auction house Christie's was Wednesday to hold its own Impressionist and Modern Art sale in London, the prize piece being Paul Gauguin's "Nature morte a "L'Esperance," which is expected to sell for around 10 million pounds.

Maker of stolen Khodorkovsky film probes case's mysteries

BERLIN, Germany (AFP) - The dramatic theft of material from a critical new documentary on jailed Russian former oil tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky has touched off a storm of suspicion days before its world premiere in Berlin.

German director Cyril Tuschi told AFP he aimed to shed light on the puzzling aspects of the ex-Yukos chief's case with his first documentary "Khodorkovsky", which will still screen as planned at the Berlin film festival.

The film paints a nuanced picture of the man at the heart of Russia's most high-profile legal saga in interviews with family members, opponents, fellow travellers and, in the picture's riveting climax, Khodorkovsky himself.

Tuschi depicts the trials as a kind of "clash of the titans" between the country's richest man, before he was stripped of his assets, and its most powerful, then president Vladimir Putin.

The picture begins with an animated sequence dramatising Khodorkovsky's return from a business trip abroad on his private jet in 2003, when masked commandos stormed the plane and hauled him into custody.

"The mystery of why he came back to Russia is the main reason why I made the film," Tuschi, 42, told AFP in an interview the day before the break-in.

"Why would such a rational, clever, logical person make such an illogical mistake with both eyes open? I found



German film director Cyril Tuschi is pictured here at his office in Berlin.

this Shakespearean drama -- how someone who had reached such a high point could fall so far -- fascinating."

The picture goes on to explore how Khodorkovsky went from a dyed-in-the-wool student communist with a poster of Lenin on his wall to an oil oligarch and a potential threat to Putin.

Tuschi, whose great-grandfather was a wealthy businessman in Saint Petersburg, was cautious while filming in Russia.

While he was editing in

Bali a few weeks ago, a hard disk with parts of the documentary were stolen from his hotel room.

Last week, burglars stole four computers on which interview out-takes and the finalised version of the film were stored from his Berlin offices, which were also vandalised.

Police said they are investigating the theft, which prompted furious speculation in the German and international press about possible Kremlin involvement.

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World Cup format favours top teams - organiser



NEW DELHI (AFP) - The format of this month's cricket World Cup was tweaked to give India and other big teams a better chance of advancing in the tournament, a top organiser said on Wednesday.

Tournament director Ratanakar Shetty described the early exit of India and Pakistan from the last World Cup, played in the Caribbean, as a "disaster" for the event and said the format was altered to avoid a repeat.

The quarter-final format, first used in 1996 before being discarded, has been revived this time to ensure each team plays a minimum of six group-stage matches even if

they do not make the next round.

In the 2007 World Cup, teams were divided into four groups of four each with the top two advancing to the Super-Eights league round before the semi-finals.

In the upcoming tournament, the 14 teams are in two groups with the top four in each qualifying for the knock-out rounds.

"I will not be honest if I say no," Shetty told the espnstar.com website when asked if the format had been designed to favour a top team like India.

"Economically, we all know that India is the financial powerhouse of cricket.

League, union talk again as deadline looms

WASHINGTON (AFP) - National Football League owners and players union representatives met Wednesday for their second negotiating session in five days with barely three weeks remaining before their current deal expires.

Owners and union leaders met Saturday in Dallas on the eve of the Super Bowl but billionaire owners and multi-millionaire players remain apart on how to divide profits from the most popular sport in America.

Both sides will meet again later this week.

Owners opted out of the collective bargaining agreement in 2008 in hopes of better financial terms. As a result, the deal will expire on March 3.

The NFL says if no deal is reached by the deadline, the impact would be a gross revenue loss of 120 million dollars. That loss would grow to one billion dollars if a new deal is not made by September when the new season would begin.

NFL Players Association executive director DeMaurice Smith says he believes owners will lock out players once the current labor deal

expires.

Owners will be paid by television networks even if no games are played, the money coming from future telecasts.

A solution that could bring owners and players both more money to divide would include expanding the season from 16 or 18 games for each club, trimming away two of four pre-season games in

The exit of India and Pakistan from the 2007 World Cup was a disaster for the tournament.

"The sponsors, broadcasters, tour operators, West Indies board -- all lost a lot of money. The format was changed in such a way that it gives all the top teams a chance to compete."

Shetty, who is also the chief administrative officer of the Indian cricket board, sought to allay security fears which usually dog high-profile tournaments in the sub-continent.

"The sub-continent has its own share of issues, with the biggest challenge being security," he said. "It is slightly different from how it would be if the tournament was to be staged in England or Australia.

"Things have changed in the last two years," he said. "The police have a mechanism of continuously monitoring the security issues.

"The threat perception varies from team to team, and that is an aspect that is being looked into by the central government."

The World Cup, being co-hosted by India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, starts on February 19.

favor of matches that matter in the standings.

But union leaders and many top players have said the grind of a longer season would be too much for players to bear.

The last time the NFL and its players had a major stumbling block over a work agreement was in 1987 when replacement players filled NFL rosters for three weeks.



Argentinian Leo Messi fights for the ball with Portuguese Cristiano Ronaldo and Raul Meireles in a friendly football match between Portugal and Argentina, on February 9, 2011 at La Praille stadium in Geneva. Argentina went on to win the match 2-1. AFP PHOTO



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2018 Ryder Cup host announcement set for May

DUBAI (AFP) - The European host nation for the 2018 Ryder Cup will be revealed at the Wentworth Club outside London on May 17, Ryder Cup Europe announced on Wednesday.

In the running will be bids from France, Germany, Netherlands, Portugal and Spain. Only Spain in 1997 has hosted the event previously.

Ryder Cup Director Richard Hills said: "It has been a hugely challenging and stimulating process, taking almost 18 months to complete, and the Wentworth Club is a highly appropriate location to announce the host nation for the 2018 Ryder Cup."

Six countries initially submitted bids to host the biennial event which opposes Europe and the United States,

Murray crashes out in Rotterdam first round

ROTTERDAM (AFP) - Andy Murray won three games in 12 minutes before a slow fade Wednesday at the ATP Rotterdam Open which left the Australian Open finalist a first-round loser to Marcos Baghdatis.

The Cypriot turned the tables in dramatic fashion for a 6-4, 6-1 upset of the second seed who is still nursing wounds from his second consecutive title-match defeat in Melbourne.

Murray also admitted that he felt some pain in his left

wrist, during the 61-minute disappointment but said he did not think it was a serious matter.

"I need to think about what I need to do to be playing my best tennis by Indian Wells and Miami in March. I started well and then began missing a lot. You need to be very sharp in your movement on this surface."

The world number five will hope to play doubles with his brother Jamie at the tournament which he won in 2009.

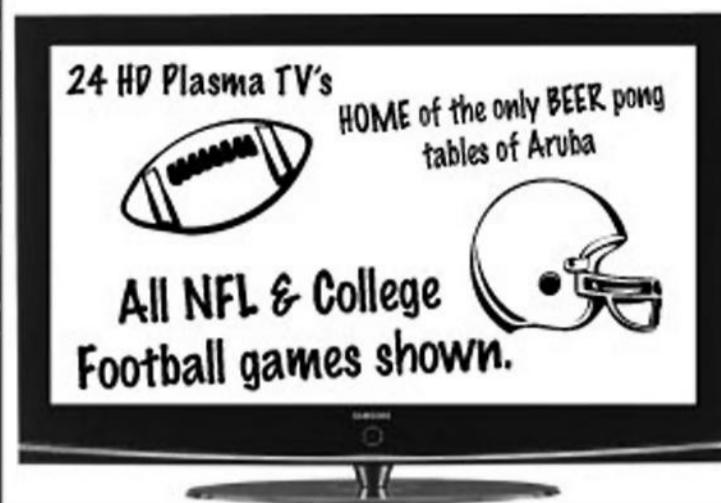


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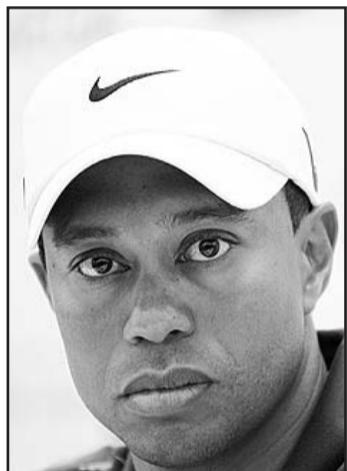
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Only time will tell, says Woods



DUBAI (AFP) - Tiger Woods believes he is on the right track to end his 15-month winless streak but says he needs more time before he can declare himself back to his best.

Preparing to tee off in the European Tour's Dubai Desert Classic on Thursday, the 14-time major champion Woods last hoisted aloft a trophy at the Australian Masters in November 2009.

Shortly after that his life was thrown into turmoil by a sex scandal that wrecked his marriage, shattered his image and saw his golf game suffer as a consequence.

A poor start to the year at Torrey Pines, California last month saw Woods arrive in the Gulf still looking for solid confirmation that the radical swing changes he has been working on with coach Sean Foley are bearing fruit.

But he insisted there was

no going back for him.

"Certainly it was frustrating that I didn't perform the way I know I could," he said. "But I've been here before. It takes time."

"I went through a two-year period where I didn't do anything and I went through a year-and-a-half period where I didn't do anything. It takes time to make these changes."

"You don't make changes and just start winning a bunch of golf tournaments. It doesn't work that way. It takes time."

"It was good to have those problems (at Torrey Pines) kind of show themselves under a tournament atmosphere and it was very good to identify and fix it."

Dubai holds happy memories for Woods.

He first played here in 2001, losing narrowly down the stretch to Thomas Bjorn, but recorded outstanding wins in 2006 and 2008 and is a whopping 82 under par for the 20 rounds he has played over the Majlis course at Emirates Golf Club.

Appeals court won't block Vikings' bans

MINNEAPOLIS (AFP) - The Minnesota Court of Appeals on Tuesday ruled that there is no legal basis for granting two Vikings defensive players relief from their bans for violating the NFL's anti-doping policy.

Barring a further appeal, the ruling appeared to clear the way for the NFL to sus-

pend Kevin Williams and Pat Williams.

The league has been trying to impose the four-game suspensions since the two, who are not related, tested positive for a banned diuretic in 2008.

The players could still take their appeal to Minnesota state Supreme Court.

The Williamses tested positive for bumetanide, a banned diuretic that can mask the presence of performance-enhancing drugs. They said they didn't know the diuretic was contained in the Star-Caps weight-loss supplement that they used.

In a case closely watched by other US professional sports leagues, the players sued the NFL in Minnesota state court, claiming the league violated state labor law.

He opted not to play in 2009 and last year he was mired in his marriage crisis meaning that he will be playing in the Gulf region for the first time in two years.

That fits his stated intention of playing as much as he can on the international stage.

"I think the schedule will be about the same (for this year). Still playing globally," he said.

"Obviously spending the majority of my time in the States and playing our tour, supporting our tour."

"But I'll still be playing a global schedule."

Woods has been paired for the first two rounds with the two players who have moved ahead of him in the world rankings - Lee Westwood and Martin Kaymer - a scenario he says suits him fine.

"I think it's fun," he said.

"The last time I played in a pairing like this was the US Open in 2008 (with Phil Mickelson and Adam Scott), the top three guys and we had a lot of fun. I think tomorrow will be the same."

pend Kevin William and Pat Williams.

IndyCar to drop Japanese race after 2011

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (AFP) - IndyCar will not return to Japan to race at Twin Ring Motegi after this September, the US-based racing series announced Wednesday, ending 14 years of open-wheel races at the Honda facility.

This year's event will be staged September 18 at the 1.5-mile oval north of Tokyo as the 15th of 16 races on the 2011 IndyCar schedule, a late-season spot that IndyCar officials said was an issue in the decision to drop the race.

"As IndyCar and the IndyCar Series continue to eval-

uate their long term plans, we must look to build the sport and its viewership," IndyCar commercial president Terry Angstadt said.

"We believe it is important that the final few events on our schedule give us the opportunity to be broadcast live during times that maximize our (US) viewing audience as we build up to the championship."

The Japan race's departure will leave the Sao Paulo Indy 300 in Brazil, staged in May, as IndyCar's lone race outside North America.



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Heat's Jones gets All-Star shootout invite

MIAMI (AFP) - James Jones will have a busy NBA All-Star weekend in Los Angeles, as a player representative for Miami in contract talks and now as competitor in the three-point shootout.

Jones was named Tuesday as one of six selections for the three-point shooting competition, part of the slate of activities on All-Star Saturday night.

The All-Star game itself will be held the next day, Sunday, February 20, at Staples Center, home of both the Los Angeles Lakers and Clippers.

"I was as surprised as anyone else when I found out I

was invited, just because I don't look at what I do as anything spectacular or special," said Jones, who almost exclusively shoots from beyond the arc for Miami.

"I'm a specialist and I think 95 percent of my shots are three's," he said. "Naturally I take a lot, and I make a lot."

Jones finished the 2007-08 season as the NBA's third-best three-point shooter. But an injury to his right wrist hindered him for almost two years.

Fears that he would never regain his best form have proved unfounded.

French memorabilia fan loses his shirt

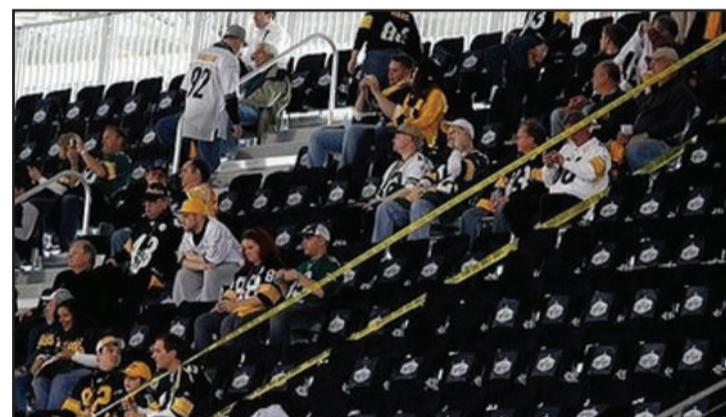
GRENOBLE (AFP) - A football memorabilia collector was left fuming and out of pocket after customs officials destroyed a package containing his prize possession - French star David Trezeguet's shirt from the 1998 World Cup final win over Brazil.

Customs destroyed the item on suspicion that the shirt was a forgery, to the horror of its owner, who had paid some 7,000 euros (9,600 dollars) for the garment put up for sale by a Brazilian on an internet site.



When the French fan, who had exchanged two of his own shirts worth some 4,000 euros as part payment for Trezeguet's, turned up at the post office to collect his package officials told him that cus-

Lawsuit filed for frustrated Super Bowl fans



Some of the 400 temporary seats, that were not used, are taped off.

DALLAS (AFP) - Hundreds of Super Bowl fans who bought Super Bowl tickets and

wound up missing the game or settling for obstructed views from folding chairs are taking their complaints to federal court.

A lawsuit filed late Tuesday in Dallas accuses the National Football League, the Dallas Cowboys and Cowboys owner Jerry Jones of deceptive sales practices, breach of contract in fraud over last Sunday's NFL championship spectacle.

The Green Bay Packers defeated Pittsburgh 31-25 at Cowboys Stadium before more than 100,000 spectators and a record television audience, but about 400 people were forced out of seats over

safety issues with temporary bleachers.

Temporary seating was not completed in time for the game but the NFL did not let the public know there was even a possibility of a seating snafu.

Some 850 spectators were moved from seats in the closed-off sections to other areas in the stadium, but could only see the action on the field by looking at the stadium's giant telescreen or other monitors.

Cowboys season-ticket holders were among those forced into folding chairs and given inadequate compensation for their purchase, sparking the deceptive sales practice charges.

Those turned away were offered triple the printed value of their tickets as compensation as well as free tickets to next year's Super Bowl in Indianapolis by the NFL, which took the blame for fumbling the seating plan for the largest crowd in Super Bowl history.

"It was obviously a failure on our behalf and we have to take responsibility for that," NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said.

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